

Three Sources on Tsunamis**Item One**

A powerful earthquake shook southern Asia on Sunday. The quake struck deep under the Indian Ocean, triggering waves of up to 20 feet. These giant waves, called tsunamis, devastated¹ coastlines from southern India to the island nation of Indonesia. The northeastern coast of Africa was also hit.

The tsunamis destroyed whole villages and left millions of people homeless. More than 121,000 people were killed, and thousands are still missing. Officials fear the death toll will rise as cleanup efforts continue.

—*Time for Kids* magazine, Dec. 30, 2004

Item Two

[A tsunami is a] series of catastrophic² ocean waves [created] by submarine³ movements, which may be caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides beneath the ocean, or an asteroid striking the earth.

...

In the open ocean, tsunamis may have wavelengths of up to several hundred miles and travel at speeds up to 500 miles per hour ... [but a tsunami may] have wave heights of less than 3 feet, which pass unnoticed beneath a ship at sea.... When tsunamis approach shallow water along a coast, they are slowed, causing their length to shorten and their height to rise sometimes as high as 100 feet.

—Fact Monster encyclopedia

Item Three

WASHINGTON (AP) — Coastal villages set behind mangrove⁴ forests in southeast India suffered much less damage in the Asian tsunami than places without the protection of trees, a new study reports.

The massive wave last December struck 11 countries, leaving more than 230,000 people dead or missing. . . .

—CNN.com, Oct. 27, 2005

1. **devastated:** greatly damaged
2. **catastrophic:** sudden and violent
3. **submarine:** underwater
4. **mangrove:** tropical evergreen tree or shrub